

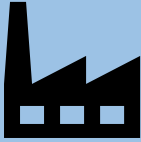

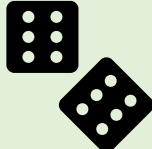

Leisure & Hospitality Industry Profile in WDB 17 – Stearns and Benton

There were **525 leisure and hospitality establishments** providing **8,213 jobs** in Stearns and Benton Counties through the 3rd quarter of 2019, according to data from DEED's Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages program. That is **7.8% of total employment** in the region. The largest employing sectors include accommodation and food services, and more specifically food services and drinking places, which accounted for 366 firms and 6,467 jobs (see Table 1).

Table 1. WDB 17 Employment Statistics		Qtr. 1 – Qtr. 3 2019 Data			
NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Firms, Q1-Q3	Number of Jobs, Q1-Q3	Total Payroll, Q1-Q3	Avg. Annual Wage, Q1-Q3
0	Total, All Industries	5,337	104,676	\$3,697,454,542	\$45,561
	Leisure & Hospitality	525	8,213	\$99,391,108	\$16,077
71	Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	113	1,034	\$11,868,328	\$17,463
712	Museums, Historical Sites, & Similar Institutions	3	16	\$266,814	\$34,294
713	Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries	3	16	\$266,814	\$34,294
72	Accommodation & Food Services	412	7,179	\$87,522,780	\$15,964
721	Accommodation	46	711	\$9,034,012	\$15,600
722	Food Services & Drinking Places	366	6,467	\$78,488,768	\$15,973

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

As the largest population and regional employment center, Stearns County had the largest number of jobs in leisure and hospitality industries and a significantly higher concentration of employment compared to Benton County, however the concentration of employment is well below the statewide rate of 10.1%. The vast majority of jobs are in the accommodation and food service sector which has been declining since 2016, and remains well below the employment peak in 2007 (see Table 2).

Table 2. WDB 17 Industry Employment Statistics by County, Qtr. 1 - Qtr. 3 2019	 Total, All Industries		 Leisure & Hospitality			 Arts, Entertainment & Recreation		 Accommodation & Food Services	
	Firms	Jobs	Firms	Jobs	Percent	Firms	Jobs	Firms	Jobs
Benton Co.	992	17,469	81	1,160	6.6%	22	140	59	1,021
Stearns Co.	4,345	87,207	444	7,053	8.1%	91	895	353	6,158

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

For more information, contact Luke Greiner, DEED's Central Regional Analyst at 320-308-5378 or email at luke.greiner@state.mn.us.